CET Test Extended (Again)!

Some time ago, a Crash Event Timer (CET) was installed in your vehicle as part of a research program **Veridian Engineering, Calspan Operations** is conducting in Western New York for the **U.S. Department of Transportation National Highway Traffic Safety Administration**. Since then, much has happened in the test program:

- **The CET test has been extended in Western New York for at least another year!**
  Your ongoing involvement is greatly appreciated. Also, **we are still looking for volunteers**. If you know anyone who would be interested in participating in the program, or if you know of any not-for-profit organizations holding events at which CETs could be installed (such as fundraisers), please call Roger McClellan at (716) 631-4192; Veridian will pay the organization $3.00 for each CET they install!

- **Veridian has updated the CET instruction card.**
  You will find the new and improved instructions inside this newsletter; please review them to know what to do in the event of a crash and keep the instruction card in the glove compartment of the vehicle equipped with the CET.

- **CETs have collected EMS (Emergency Medical Service) response time data in many accidents.**

One of these accidents, for example, was a three-vehicle crash of a CET-equipped 1990 Ford Probe, a 1989 Chevrolet van and a 1995 Ford pickup. The force of the crash was above the timer's threshold and the CET was activated

The crash occurred at the intersection of a five-lane north/south roadway and a two-lane east/west road (see **Figure 1**).

The Ford Probe was southbound in the left-turn lane. The driver became distracted and turned left in front of the Chevrolet van. The van struck the right side of the Probe (see **Figure 2**) and then contacted the Ford pickup in a minor secondary collision. The Probe was towed from the scene due to disabling damage, but the van and pickup were driven from the crash scene by their respective drivers.

The crash did not cause any injuries to the vehicles' drivers; however, EMS personnel were dispatched. Based on data from the vehicle's CET, it was determined that EMS personnel were dispatched four minutes after the crash.

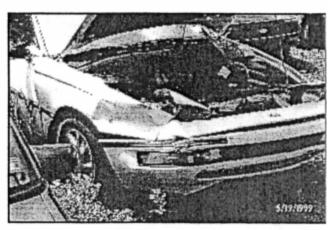*Figure 1: Northward view of the crash scene.*

Figure 2: Right front view of the Ford Probe

How the CET Works

The CET determines the exact time an accident occurs, enabling Veridian Accident Investigators to measure the time that elapses from the instant of the crash occurrence until Emergency Medical Service (EMS) personnel are notified of the crash This information has never been available before and is extremely valuable in EMS research It is providing particularly relevant information for rural, unwitnessed accidents where the amount of time that passes before EMS personnel are notified is longer and usually unknown.

The CET is a simple device that consists primarily of

- A radial inertia switch (which senses a crash and starts the timer)
- A microcontroller (count-up timer)
- A battery
- Two wire leads (used to transfer the crash time data onto a computer)

In the event of a crash, a small sticker placed on the driver-side rear window instructs EMS personnel to notify Veridian. However, test participants such as yourself should also notify Veridian by calling 1-800-383-COLL as soon as possible after the accident The CET **only retains recorded data for 3 weeks**, after that time, the crash data will be lost

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If you are relocating, please tell us **before** you move so we can retrieve the CET and keep an up-to-date database

Also, if your window is replaced or otherwise altered in such a way that your CET sticker is destroyed, please contact us and we will replace your sticker

If you have any question or comments about the CET program, if you are changing vehicles or if you have changed your address, please contact our Message Center at (716) 631-4111 or write to CET Test, Veridian Engineering, P O Box 400, Buffalo, NY 14225

Veridian Engineering
P O. Box 400, Buffalo, NY 14225

Breaking CET News!